



Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board

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MINUTES OF THE JULY 21, 2021 MEETING OF THE ARIZONA PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD PHOENIX, ARIZONA

A public meeting of the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board was convened on July 21, 2021, at the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, located at 2643 E. University Drive, Phoenix, AZ.

Members Present (in person):

Sheriff Mark Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Chairman
Commander Matthew Figueroa, Jail Commander, Coconino County Sheriff's Office
Assistant Attorney General John Johnson, representing Attorney General Mark Brnovich
Deputy Director Joe Profiri, representing Director David Shinn, AZ Department of Corrections
Rehabilitation & Reentry
Professor Kevin Robinson, Arizona State University
Colonel Heston Silbert, AZ Department of Public Safety
Sheriff David Rhodes, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office
Chief Chris Vasquez, Eloy Police Department
Ms. Leesa B. Weisz, Public Member

Members Present (via online video/telephone conferencing):

Officer Matthew Medina, Prescott Police Department

Members Absent:

Ms. Jamie Kelly, Public Member
Chief Jeri Williams, Phoenix Police Department

Staff in Attendance (in person):

Matt Giordano, Executive Director
Ben Henry, Deputy Director
William Caldwell, Compliance Specialist
Dan Ciernia, Digital Media Supervisor
Amanda Faust, Training Program Administrator
Mike Giammarino, Compliance Program Administrator
Cathy Hawse, Compliance Specialist
Steve Jacobs, Compliance Specialist
Robin MacIntire, ADC Compliance Specialist
Mike Orose, Compliance Program Administrator
Rita Mae Schaefer, Administrative Assistant
Sandy Sierra, Executive Assistant
David Toporek, Compliance Specialist
Rick VanKeuren, Training Specialist
Lori Wait, Training Program Administrator

Assistant Attorneys General (in person):

Mark Brachtl

Gino Duran

A. Call to Order

Chairman Dannels called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Johnson (AAG) to lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Introductions, Presentations and Announcements

Matt Giordano, Executive Director

- Roll Call was taken. Ten Board members are present, nine are here in person and one is participating via telephone/video conferencing. Chief Jeri Williams and Ms. Jamie Kelly are absent.
- Mr. John Johnson (AAG) is attending his first in-person Board meeting.
- We have a new training specialist in Basic Training. Rick VanKeuren comes to us from the AZ Department of Public Safety where he retired after 24 years of service. Rick retired on Monday and reported to work at AZPOST on Tuesday, we are very excited to have him onboard. We have another candidate who is in the final stages of the hiring process and he too will be a training specialist for Basic Training, he should be onboard sometime in August.
- On the Advanced Training side of the house, we have a candidate who completed the final stages of the hiring process and he will be starting next week. We are also working on an IGA with a Southern Arizona law enforcement agency for them to provide an officer to work as a training specialist for Advanced Training. This individual will still be employed by the agency but assigned to AZPOST and we will split employment costs.
- Last meeting the Board approved a 10% raise for all AZPOST employees. The Law Enforcement Merit System Council also gave their approval for DPS and AZPOST employees to receive this raise.

C. Executive Director's Report

Matt Giordano, Executive Director

- I attended the Law Enforcement Summit last week in Flagstaff, it was a really well attended. As part of AACOP Training Committee, we were able to provide 8.5 hours of Continuing Training hours through four different training blocks for anyone needing training hours to meet the yearly requirement. One of the classes we presented was sponsored by AZPOST. Each year AZPOST presents a 4-hour block of training geared toward agency executives. This year's class was taught by Training Specialist Ron Bayne, who teaches our Basic Leadership Academy. Ron presented an abbreviated version of the three leadership programs AZPOST provides. The class was really well done and very well received. We have received numerous inquiries from several agencies about having Ron come and teach this class, they were very impressed. Our goal is to take the training to the agencies when we can because it is more efficient and cost effective, plus it allows for more people to attend.
- I have been participating with IADLEST and IACP on officer safety and wellness curriculum development. This has now been completed and approved. Denver will be hosting a class, as a pilot program, in early August. I am working with the Phoenix Regional Police Academy (PRPA) and Chief Jeri Williams to host a class in Phoenix as a pilot program in late August or early September. This is very exciting because this is going to be a national model for

officer safety and wellness training at the basic academy curriculum level. To have a pilot program in Arizona is a big win for us.

- As the western representative for IADLEST, I have agreed to sponsor and host the 2024 International Association Meeting in Phoenix. Representatives from all over the world will be in attendance.
- Our website will be undergoing a long overdue overhaul. Currently our website is antiquated, but with this overhaul, it will be more functional and accessible.
- The Comprehensive Final Exam is now done electronically. Our Training staff has been working with the academies on how to provide the test to the recruits and to run the process 100%. This is very beneficial because it frees up staff time and allows the academies to have more leeway and flexibility on when they offer the tests.
- Deputy Director Ben Henry and his staff have been meeting with all the labor attorneys to discuss current issues/trends and how to making matters more efficient. One of the biggest issues discussed was public records requests. As a result of these meetings, we have been able to work out a very good system that serves their needs while making it less cumbersome for us and still meeting our obligations under the Public Records Laws of the State of Arizona.
- House Bill 2462 relates to training for non-sworn members of oversight committees. We continue to work with our stakeholders who have boards that meet this criteria. We will release 80 hours of training that is AZPOST approved. The agency and board can pick and choose what they feel meets their needs and requirements. It is not AZPOST's responsibility to provide the training, our responsibility is to approve the training. In being a good partner, we thought we would release the training that is available and let them use what they want.
- We were recently informed that there might be a problem with how Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) are reimbursed. We host AZPOST instructor classes throughout the state to develop instructors. Those classes have to be taught by SMEs and AZPOST pays for their lodging and per diem. Historically, we have reimbursed them directly. The State has informed us that we can no longer do this, we have to reimburse their agencies and the agency will then reimburse the individual. Depending on the agency they work for, this can be a bureaucratic nightmare. With some agencies, this is very difficult to do as there are many hurdles to jump through. We are working on getting this resolved. ADOA has been very helpful, they have explored some alternatives for us, we may have a resolution that will allow us to bring these individuals on as non-compensated employees and then we will be allowed to reimburse them directly.
- I was graciously invited by Chief Vasquez to attend the ribbon cutting of the new Eloy Police Department facility. They did a great job in remodeling/rebuilding an old unused building and making a beautiful new facility for the Eloy Police Department.
- I did the swearing in at a PRPA graduation last month. Attending a graduation is very invigorating, as you get to see the excitement and pride of the men and women as they graduate from a law enforcement academy. It is an honor for me to do this.

D. Consent Agenda

Mr. Johnson (AAG) recused himself from this matter.

Colonel Silbert made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Chief Vasquez and passed unanimously.

The following items were approved:

1. Minutes of the Board meeting held on June 16, 2021.

2. Certification Waivers:

Anna Anderson	Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Devin Heyn	Peoria Police Department
Tamra Lundy	Salt River Police Department
Michael Cariveau	Scottsdale Police Department
Christian Noseworthy	Scottsdale Police Department
Blake Ruiz	Scottsdale Police Department

3. Consent Agreements for Voluntary Relinquishment/Denial of Peace Officer Certification. The following individuals, without admitting to any misconduct, requests the Board accept their request to permanently relinquish their Arizona peace officer certification:

Nicholas E. Adams	20-139	Maricopa County Attorney's Office
Vanessa T. Garcia	20-149	AZ Department of Transportation-ECD
Justin M. Betts	21-034	Gilbert Police Department
Adrian Romero	21-035	Chandler Police Department
Nicholas R. Peterson	21-069	Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Spencer P. Allen	21-081	Mesa Police Department
Anthony J. Hernandez	21-098	Phoenix Police Department

E. Review, Discussion and Possible Action regarding Changing the Current Membership of the AZPOST DUI Subcommittee.

Executive Director Giordano stated the Board created the AZPOST DUI Subcommittee during the May meeting. Three agency heads and a public member volunteered to be on the Subcommittee. Officer Matt Medina was not at this meeting and did not have the opportunity to volunteer for the Subcommittee. After further review, it was determined that peer representation would be beneficial on this Subcommittee. Chief Vasquez graciously volunteered to step down and allow Officer Medina to replace him on the Subcommittee.

Colonel Silbert made a motion to approve the change to the AZPOST DUI Subcommittee and appoint Officer Matt Medina to the Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Rhodes and passed unanimously.

F. Final Action Cases:

1. 20-036 – Patrick W. Martinez – Mammoth Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist William Caldwell; who provided a brief overview of the case. Mr. Martinez also addressed the Board. Sheriff Rhodes made a motion to revoke Mr. Martinez's peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Deputy Director Profiri and passed unanimously.

2. 21-026 – Timothy J. Thomas – Navajo County Sheriff’s Office

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Steve Jacobs; who provided a brief overview of the case. Professor Robinson made a motion to revoke Mr. Thomas’ peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Colonel Silbert and passed unanimously.

G. New Charging Cases:

1. 20-167 Andrew E. Johnson – Mesa Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist William Caldwell, who provided a brief overview of the case. Chief Vasquez made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Johnson’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Professor Robinson and passed unanimously.

Colonel Silbert left the meeting for a short while.

2. 20-138 – Alan S. Urkov – Coolidge Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist William Caldwell, who provided a brief overview of the case. Professor Robinson made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Urkov’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Chief Vasquez and passed unanimously.

3. 20-076 – Miguel A. Gutierrez – Douglas Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Cathy Hawse, who provided a brief overview of the case. Commander Figueroa made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Gutierrez’ peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weisz and passed unanimously.

Colonel Silbert returned to the meeting.

4. 21-048 – Travis G. Mattern – Tombstone Marshal’s Office

Sheriff Dannels recused himself from this case. Sheriff Rhodes was acting chair. The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Cathy Hawse, who provided a brief overview of the case. Chief Vasquez made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Mattern’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Deputy Director Profiri and passed unanimously.

Cases #5 and #6 were taken out of order.

5. 20-135 – Jacob M. Martinez – Tucson Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Cathy Hawse, who provided a brief overview of the case; a short video was also presented. Colonel Silbert made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Martinez’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson (AAG) and passed unanimously.

6. 20-134 – Christian R. Robeson – Tucson Police Department

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Cathy Hawse, who provided a brief overview of the case; a short video was also presented. Colonel Silbert made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Robeson’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Commander Figueroa and passed unanimously.

7. 21-065 – Israel M. Juarez – Gila County Sheriff’s Office

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Steve Jacobs, who provided a brief overview of the case. Professor Robinson made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Juarez’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weisz and passed unanimously.

8. 21-043 – Joel Leuppe – Navajo Division of Public Safety

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Steve Jacobs, who provided a brief overview of the case. Chief Vasquez made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Leuppe’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Commander Figueroa and passed unanimously. Discussion ensued on whether the FBI was notified of the U.S. Code violation referenced in this case, it was determined it was not. Ms. Weisz stated since this was not reported to the FBI, it is potentially a violation of federal code, she feels it is incumbent upon this Board to send this information to the FBI. Executive Director Giordano stated he would reach out to the FBI and make that notification on behalf of the Board.

9. 21-042 – Randall T. Tomasyo – Navajo Division of Public Safety

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist Steve Jacobs, who provided a brief overview of the case. Professor Robinsons made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Tomasyo’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Colonel Silbert and passed unanimously.

10. 20-194 – William L. Brennan II – Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office

The Board considered comments from Compliance Specialist David Toporek, who provided a brief overview of the case. Commander Figueroa made a motion to Initiate Proceedings against Mr. Brennan’s peace officer certification. The motion was seconded by Chief Vasquez and passed unanimously.

H. Future Agenda Items

There is nothing new to add, just a reminder that the DUI Subcommittee will be meeting next month, some of the issues raised today regarding DUIs will be addressed.

I. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.